

# NEWS

## DEPARTMENT OF LABOR BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS



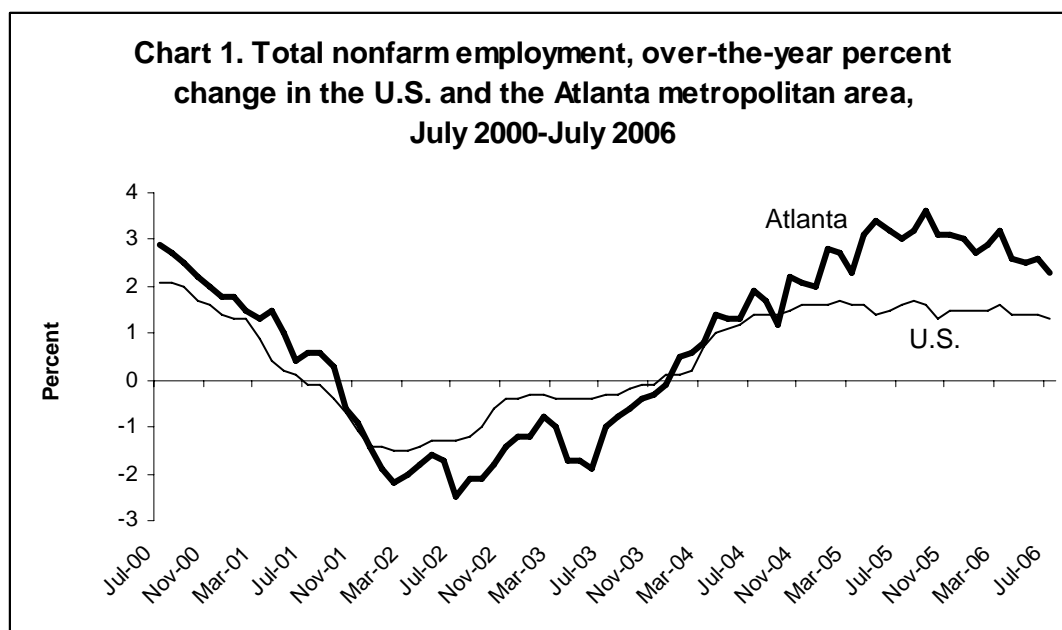
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FOR RELEASE: IMMEDIATE  
SEPTEMBER 19, 2006

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### **JULY JOB COUNT FOR THE ATLANTA AREA RISES BY 54,000 OVER THE YEAR**

Total nonfarm employment for the Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Marietta Metropolitan Statistical Area stood at 2,385,300 in July 2006, 54,000 above its year-ago level, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. The Atlanta area's job count grew at a 2.3-percent pace over the past 12 months, well above the 1.3-percent increase for the nation. (See table 1.) Regional Commissioner Janet S. Rankin noted that this was the 31<sup>st</sup> consecutive over-the-year advance for this area, although it was the smallest percentage increase since March of last year. During this expansionary period, Atlanta's employment growth peaked at 3.6 percent in September 2005, while the national rate peaked at 1.7 percent in both February and August 2005. (See chart 1 and table 1. All data in this release are not seasonally adjusted; accordingly, over-the-year analysis is used throughout.)



## Industry employment

In the Atlanta area, all but two private industry supersectors added jobs from July 2005 to July 2006 and five added more than 6,000 jobs. Professional and business services experienced the strongest employment gain, adding 10,400 jobs over the year, an increase of 2.7 percent. Still, these were the smallest over-the-year net and percentage increases of the past 22 months in this industry supersector. Education and health services rose by 8,700 from a year ago, nearly equal to the six-month average of the increases experienced this year so far. This industry has added at least 6,000 jobs annually in Atlanta for the past 32 months.

Also adding a large number of jobs were leisure and hospitality (7,400); trade, transportation, and utilities (7,200); and construction (6,500). The percentage growth in construction jobs, 4.9 percent, was the largest of any industry supersector in Atlanta in July, but the smallest this industry has had over the past 11 months.

Among the other supersectors in the Atlanta metropolitan area, manufacturing added jobs (1,100) for the second month in a row, after eight consecutive months of losses. The information industry, on the other hand, lost 1,300 jobs over the year and was the only supersector to record a decline in Atlanta in July.

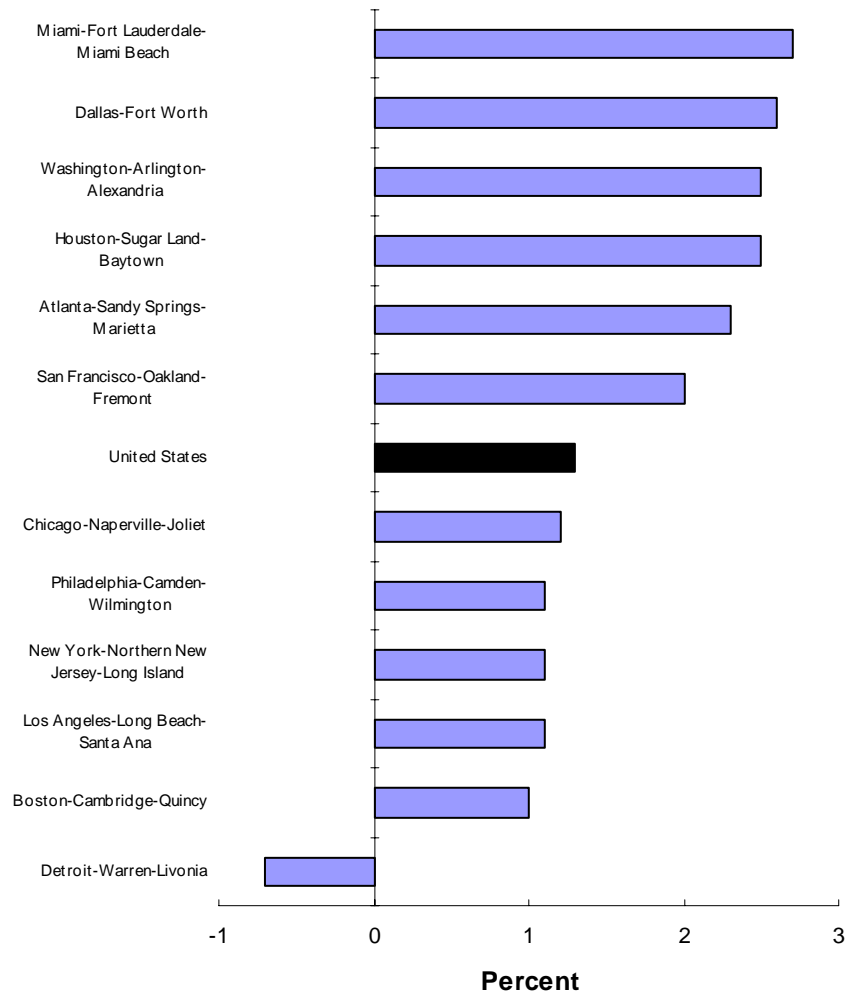
At the national level, natural resources and mining had the strongest growth rate, 9.3 percent, the largest over-the-year increase for this supersector since May 1982. Other supersectors exhibiting growth in July 2006 included professional and business services (2.9 percent) and construction (2.8 percent). Information was the only industry supersector to lose jobs over the past year.

## Employment in the 12 largest areas

Among the nation's 12 largest metropolitan statistical areas in July 2005, Atlanta was 1 of 6 to register employment growth above the 1.3-percent gain for the nation. The five fastest growing areas were in the South: Miami-Fort Lauderdale-Miami Beach, 2.7 percent (64,300 jobs), Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, 2.6 percent (71,800), Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, 2.5 percent (73,400), Houston-Sugar Land-Baytown, 2.5 percent (59,000), and Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Marietta, 2.3 percent (54,000). San Francisco-Oakland-Fremont in the West was the sixth area with above-average job increase, 2.0 percent (39,100). (See chart 2 and table 2.)

Five of the largest metropolitan areas had growth rates in the 1.0- to 1.2-percent range, including New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island which added the most jobs over the year, 88,300. Detroit-Warren-Livonia was the only area among the 12 to lose jobs over the past year, down 13,100, a decline of 0.7 percent.

**Chart 2. Over-the-year percent change in  
employment, 12 largest areas and United States,  
July 2006**



## Technical Note

This release presents nonfarm payroll employment estimates from the Current Employment Statistics (CES) program. The CES survey is a Federal-State cooperative endeavor in which State employment security agencies prepare the data using concepts, definitions, and technical procedures prescribed by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

**Definitions.** Employment data refer to persons on establishment payrolls who receive pay for any part of the pay period which includes the 12<sup>th</sup> of the month. Persons are counted at their place of work rather than at their places of residence; those appearing on more than one payroll are counted on each payroll. Industries are classified on the basis of their principal activity in accordance with the 2002 version of the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS).

**Method of estimation.** The employment data are estimated using a “link relative” technique in which a ratio (link relative) of current-month employment to that of the previous month is computed from a sample of establishments reporting for both months. The estimates of employment for the current month are obtained by multiplying the estimates for the previous month by these ratios. Small-domain models are used as the official estimators for approximately 10 percent of CES published series which have insufficient sample for direct sample-based estimates.

**Annual revisions.** Employment estimates are adjusted annually to a complete count of jobs, called benchmarks, derived principally from tax reports which are submitted by employers who are covered under state unemployment insurance (UI) laws. The benchmark information is used to adjust the monthly estimates between the new benchmark and the preceding one and also to establish the level of employment for the new benchmark month. Thus, the benchmarking process establishes the level of employment, and the sample is used to measure the month-to-month changes in the level for the subsequent months.

### Reliability of the estimates

The estimates presented in this release are based on sample survey and administrative data and thus are subject to sampling and other types of errors. Sampling error is a measure of sampling variability—that is, variation that occurs by chance because a sample rather than the entire population is surveyed. Survey data are also subject to nonsampling errors, such as those which can be introduced into the data collection and processing operations. Estimates not directly derived from sample surveys are subject to additional errors resulting from the special estimation processes used. The sums of individual items may not always equal the totals shown in the same tables because of rounding.

**Employment estimates.** Measures of sampling error for state CES data at the supersector level are available on the BLS Web site at [www.bls.gov/sae/790stderr.htm](http://www.bls.gov/sae/790stderr.htm). Information on recent benchmark revisions for states is available at [www.bls.gov/sae/](http://www.bls.gov/sae/).

**Area definitions.** The substate area data published in this release reflect the standards and definitions established by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget, dated December 5, 2005. A detailed list of the geographic definitions is published annually in the May issue of *Employment and Earnings*.

**The Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Marietta, Ga., Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA)** includes Barrow, Bartow, Butts, Carroll, Cherokee, Clayton, Cobb, Coweta, Dawson, DeKalb, Douglas, Fayette, Forsyth, Fulton, Gwinnett, Haralson, Heard, Henry, Jasper, Lamar, Meriwether, Newton, Paulding, Pickens, Pike, Rockdale, Spalding, and Walton Counties in Georgia.

### **Additional information**

More complete information on the technical procedures used to develop these estimates and additional data appear in *Employment and Earnings*, which is available by subscription from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402 (telephone 202-512-1800).

Industry employment data for states and metropolitan areas from the Current Employment Statistics program are also available in the above mentioned news releases and from the Internet at [www.bls.gov/sae/](http://www.bls.gov/sae/).

For personal assistance or further information on the Current Employment Statistics program, as well as other Bureau programs, contact the Southeast BLS information office at 404-331-3415 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. ET. Current and historical information on the Current Employment Statistics program and other surveys are also available on our regional Web site at [www.bls.gov/ro4/home.htm](http://www.bls.gov/ro4/home.htm).

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: 202-691-5200; TDD message referral phone: 1-800-877-8339.

**Table 1. Employees on nonfarm payrolls by industry, United States and Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Marietta, not seasonally adjusted**  
(Numbers in thousands)

Area and Industry	2005 July	2006 May	2006 June	2006 July p	Change from July 2005 to July 2006 p	
					Number	Percent
United States						
Total nonfarm	133,413.0	135,865.0	136,406.0	135,174.0	1,761.0	1.3
Total private	112,764.0	113,551.0	114,517.0	114,384.0	1,620.0	1.4
Natural resources and mining	635.0	673.0	688.0	694.0	59.0	9.3
Construction	7,589.0	7,578.0	7,744.0	7,800.0	211.0	2.8
Manufacturing	14,257.0	14,229.0	14,359.0	14,277.0	20.0	0.1
Trade, transportation, and utilities	25,970.0	25,990.0	26,113.0	26,046.0	76.0	0.3
Information	3,080.0	3,066.0	3,081.0	3,067.0	-13.0	-0.4
Financial activities	8,205.0	8,317.0	8,385.0	8,389.0	184.0	2.2
Professional and business services	17,027.0	17,275.0	17,528.0	17,514.0	487.0	2.9
Education and health services	17,043.0	17,762.0	17,529.0	17,391.0	348.0	2.0
Leisure and hospitality	13,500.0	13,234.0	13,616.0	13,749.0	249.0	1.8
Other services	5,458.0	5,427.0	5,474.0	5,457.0	-1.0	0.0
Government	20,649.0	22,314.0	21,889.0	20,790.0	141.0	0.7
Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Marietta MSA						
Total nonfarm	2,331.3	2,399.0	2,391.8	2,385.3	54.0	2.3
Total private	2,039.6	2,080.5	2,082.8	2,084.9	45.3	2.2
Natural resources and mining	2.1	2.2	2.1	2.1	0.0	0.0
Construction	133.4	139.1	139.3	139.9	6.5	4.9
Manufacturing	177.1	177.5	178.5	178.2	1.1	0.6
Trade, transportation, and utilities	538.8	542.9	544.2	546.0	7.2	1.3
Information	90.2	89.7	89.3	88.9	-1.3	-1.4
Financial activities	156.6	160.4	160.5	160.6	4.0	2.6
Professional and business services	391.4	398.6	398.8	401.8	10.4	2.7
Education and health services	231.2	241.1	239.7	239.9	8.7	3.8
Leisure and hospitality	222.3	231.4	232.7	229.7	7.4	3.3
Other services	96.5	97.6	97.7	97.8	1.3	1.3
Government	291.7	318.5	309.0	300.4	8.7	3.0

p =preliminary.

NOTE: Data are counts of jobs by place of work. Estimates are currently projected from March 2005 benchmark levels. Estimates subsequent to the current benchmark month are provisional and will be revised when new information becomes available.

**Table 2. Employees on nonfarm payrolls, twelve largest metropolitan areas, not seasonally adjusted**  
(Numbers in thousands)

Area	2005 July	2006 May	2006 June	2006 July p	Change from July 2005 to July 2006 p	
					Number	Percent
Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Marietta, GA	2,331.3	2,399.0	2,391.8	2,385.3	54.0	2.3
Boston-Cambridge-Quincy, MA-NH	2,416.9	2,451.2	2,464.1	2,441.5	24.6	1.0
Chicago-Naperville-Joliet, IL-IN-WI	4,497.5	4,524.4	4,550.3	4,549.9	52.4	1.2
Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, TX	2,758.4	2,843.3	2,852.2	2,830.2	71.8	2.6
Detroit-Warren-Livonia, MI	2,007.0	2,058.1	2,064.2	1,993.9	-13.1	-0.7
Houston-Sugar Land-Baytown, TX	2,343.9	2,411.8	2,414.7	2,402.9	59.0	2.5
Los Angeles-Long Beach-Santa Ana, CA	5,476.1	5,574.9	5,585.5	5,538.6	62.5	1.1
Miami-Fort Lauderdale-Miami Beach, FL	2,349.6	2,455.9	2,426.4	2,413.9	64.3	2.7
New York-Northern New Jersey- Long Island, NY-NJ-PA	8,367.3	8,458.3	8,526.5	8,455.6	88.3	1.1
Philadelphia-Camden- Wilmington, PA-NJ-DE-MD	2,766.9	2,823.3	2,823.2	2,797.6	30.7	1.1
San Francisco-Oakland-Fremont, CA	1,972.7	2,013.4	2,020.6	2,011.8	39.1	2.0
Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-WV	2,933.7	2,992.8	3,012.8	3,007.1	73.4	2.5

p =preliminary.

NOTE: Data are counts of jobs by place of work. Estimates are currently projected from March 2005 benchmark levels. Estimates subsequent to the current benchmark month are provisional and will be revised when new information becomes available. Changes were calculated using unrounded numbers.